

(43) International Publication Date  
16 June 2005 (16.06.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
WO 2005/054443 A1(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: C12N 1/04, 1/20

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/CA2004/002025

(22) International Filing Date:

30 November 2004 (30.11.2004)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

60/481,734 3 December 2003 (03.12.2003) US

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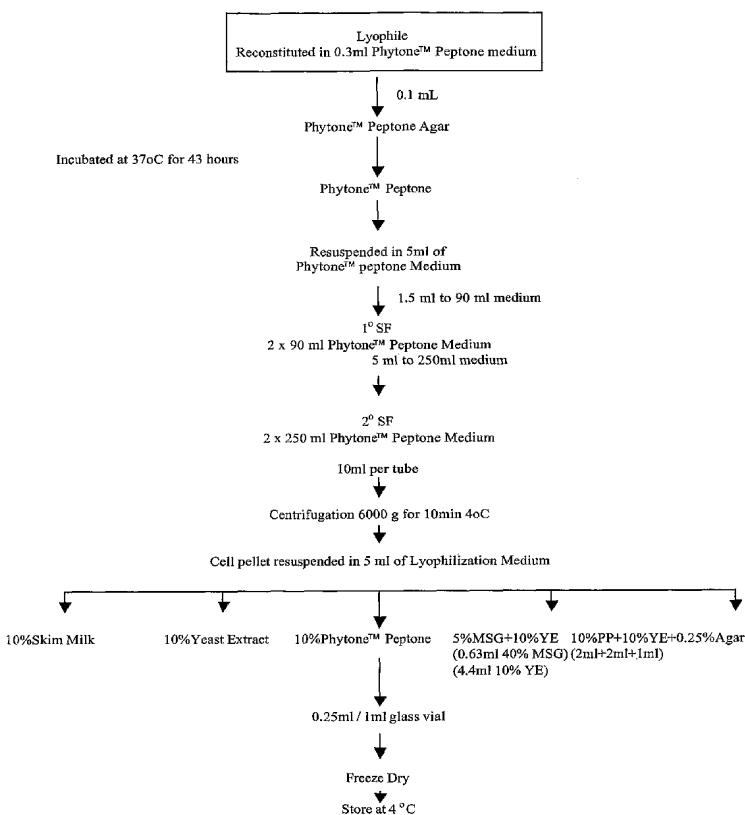
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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE,

*[Continued on next page]*

(54) Title: CRYO-PROTECTIVE AGENTS FOR MICROORGANISMS

A flow diagram outlining the preparation and lyophilization of a *C. diphtheriae* culture.

**(57) Abstract:** A lyophilization medium for a microorganism is provided wherein the medium is substantially free of animal-derived products and comprises yeast extract and monosodium glutamate. The lyophilisation medium can be used for cryoprotection of strains of bacteria such as *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*. Method for preparing a freeze-dried culture of a microorganism using the lyophilization medium, and lyophiles of microorganisms are also provided.



SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ,  
GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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**Published:**

— *with international search report*